
National Environmental Information Exchange Network

Nebraska Digital Government Summit Presentation

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Key Trends in Managing Environmental Information

- High demand for access to environmental information
- More computer literate society
- Rapid expansion of the internet
- Increasing public expectations for e-government
- Increasing integration of environmental information by state and local governments
- Need for EPA to accommodate a wide diversity of state and other partner systems

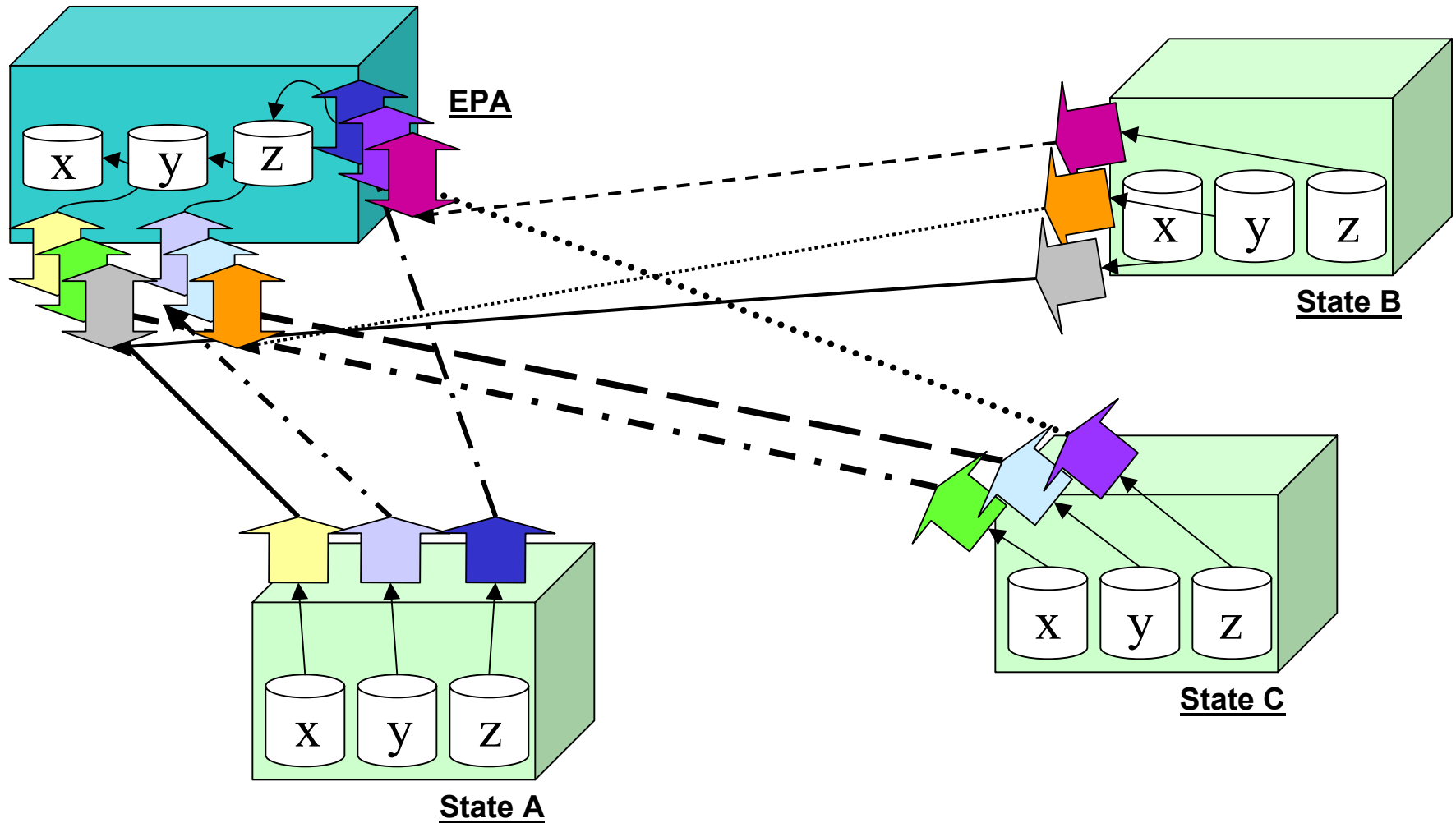


Working in Partnership: State/EPA Shared Vision

The states and EPA are committed to a partnership to build locally and nationally accessible, cohesive and coherent environmental information systems that will ensure that both the public and regulators have access to the information needed to document environmental performance, understand environmental conditions, and make sound decisions that ensure environmental protection.



Current Information Exchange

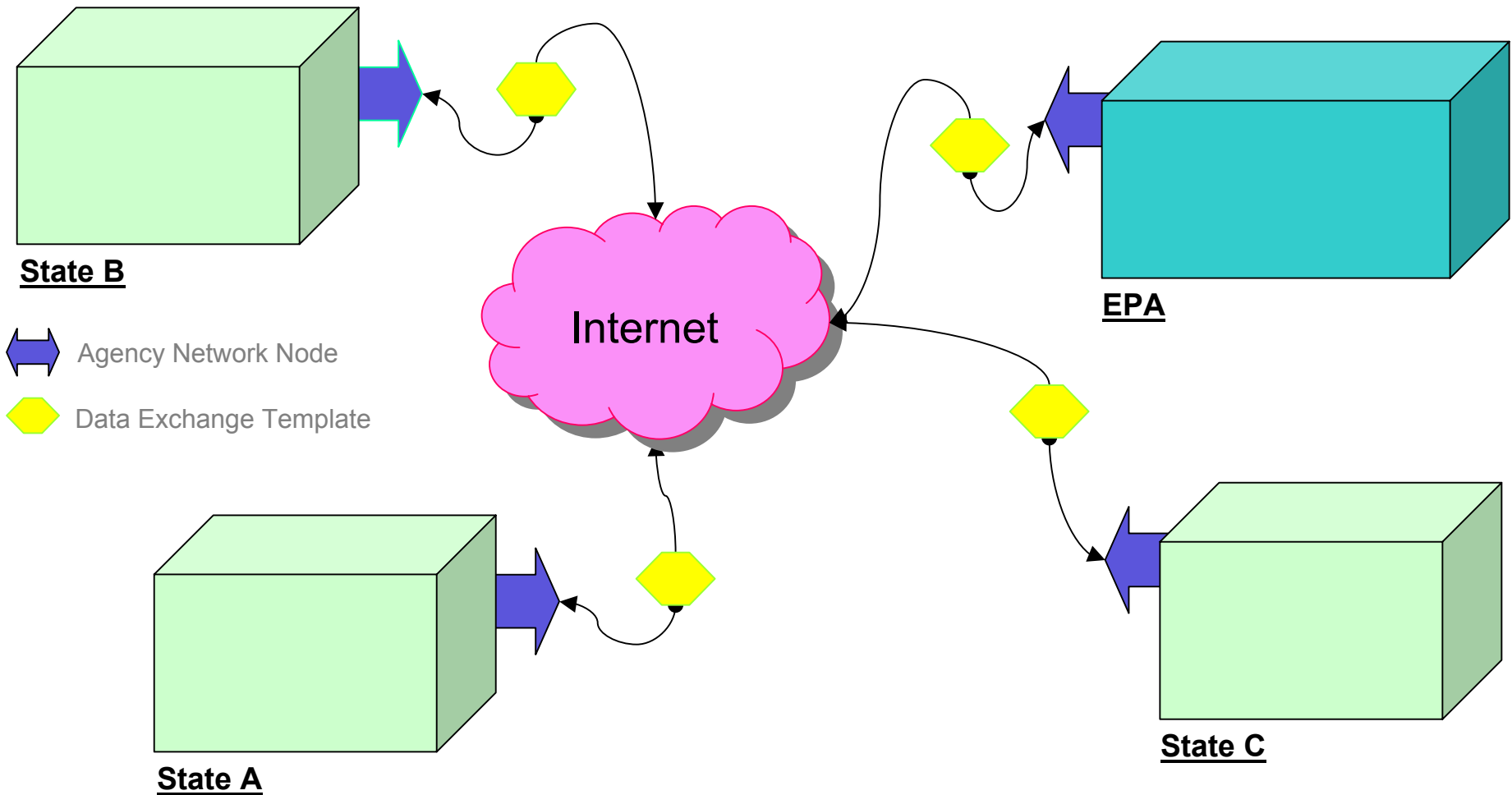


What Is the Exchange Network?

- Is standards-based
- Uses the internet and a standard protocol for the internet (XML)
- Leverages state and EPA investments
- Provides flexibility

The core of the network is not technology. . . It is a commitment to change the way data is exchanged

Network Overview



Benefits

- Delivers timely, reliable, standardized, and consistent data between partners
- Reduces reporting burden
 - States will no longer be required to “feed” EPA national systems that are often inconsistent with business needs or technologies
- Enhances potential for data integration

Benefits (continued)

- Sets the stage for the broader exchange of information
 - Between and amongst other State and/or federal agencies (e.g., environment and health departments)
- Enables States and EPA to exchange data while engineering systems on own timetables



Obstacles

- New technology
- New process for states and EPA
- Inconsistent data definitions
- Change management
- Security

Measures of Success

Developed an implementation plan

- Meeting the milestones of the plan
- Developing standards for environmental information
- Building nodes and exchanging information

Key Success Factors

- Building a node and making information available in an XML format
- Eliminating the old way of submitting information to EPA

Future Plans

- Continue working on Exchange Network activities
- Eliminate the old ways of providing information to EPA
- Work with the drinking water program of HHS to share information through our nodes
- Consider other possibilities of sharing information
 - Other state and local agencies
 - Regulated facilities

For Additional Information



www.exchangenetwork.net